

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8287

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, POR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS LINK PORTUGUESE COUP TO OTHER PLOTS

REF: MOSCOW 335 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET ANALYSIS OF LAST WEEK'S ABORTIVE COUP IN PORTUGAL HAS MOVED BEYOND ITS EARLIER LOCAL FOCUS (REFTEL) TO LINK IT WITH WIDER INTRIGUES. PRAVDA'S LISBON CORRESPONDENT, VLADIMIR YERMAKOV IN A COMMENTARY CALLED "LESSONS OF THE CONSPIRACY" IN PRAVDA (MARCH 18) SAID THAT SUCH
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ATTEMPTS ARE NORMAL FOR "IMPERIALIST CONSPIRATORS."

HE NOTED THREE RECENT "ANALOGOUS" EVENTS IN PEVRU, GREECE, AND NOW PORTUGAL. HE THEN DISCUSSED THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING THE OVERTHROW OF THE DICTATORSHIP LAST APRIL, ALLEGING THAT COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES HAVE TRIED TO PLUNGE PORTUGAL INTO CHAOS TO JUSTIFY A "SURGICAL INTERVENTION" AND CONCLUDING THAT THE REACTIONARIES WILL NOT REST BUT WILL TRY AGAIN.

2. BY CASTING HIS ANALYSIS IN A WIDER FRAMEWORK, YERMAKOV IMPLIES AN UNSEEN HAND PROMOTING RIGHTIST PLOTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE. HE AVOIDS MENTIONING THE U.S. OR ANYONE ELSE BY NAME, EXCEPT SPINOLA AND THE "REACTIONARY GENERALS AND OFFICERS" IDENTIFIED WITH THE COUP ATTEMPT. BUT BY POINTING TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF SIMILAR EVENTS IN THE FUTURE HE IMPLICITLY ENDORSES THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS CONTROL. STOESSEL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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